



Clark county dog breeder forced to relinquish dogs after reaching plea agreement

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MADISON, Wisconsin – A Clark county dog breeder plead no contest to charges of selling dogs without a license and was ordered to give up all but six dogs, according to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). The plea follows a DATCP investigation that spanned two years.

"We have been working for two years to find a resolution to this case and are pleased with the final decision," said Dr. Yvonne Bellay, humane programs veterinarian for DATCP.

According to court documents, Tammy L. Kautzer, 37, continued to advertise puppies for sale after having been denied a license, in violation of the 2010 dog seller's law. The law requires inspection and licensing of facilities that sell or adopt more than 25 dogs from more than three litters in a year. It also prohibits selling puppies less than 7 weeks old unless they go with their mothers, and requires that certificates of veterinary inspection, or health certificates, accompany dogs that are sold or adopted for a fee.

Kautzer's initial license application was denied in November 2011 when she failed to meet minimum standards. As a result, she was prohibited from operating as a dog seller in Wisconsin. Her appeal was not granted. In several instances, Kautzer asked family members to post the advertisements on her behalf so that her activity would go unnoticed by DATCP.

"Fortunately her family members became uncomfortable with the activity and refused to participate," Bellay said. Bellay also credits investigators Colin Benell and Randy Neiderkorn for closely following Kautzer's activities and bringing the case to a resolution.

The plea agreement includes one year probation, restitution in an amount to be determined by the court, and a provision that Kautzer cannot have more than six dogs on the property. She was ordered to relinquish her dogs within 5 days of the judgment.

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